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Strong ties with Thailand stressed

Two nations 'are as close as one family', says Xi

By **CAO DESHENG** in Beijing and **YANG WANLI** in Bangkok

President Xi Jinping rolled out the red carpet for visiting King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of Thailand in Beijing on Friday, the first Thai king to visit China since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1975, amid efforts by both nations to advance the building of a community with a shared future.

During his meeting with the Thai king at the Great Hall of the People, Xi said that the king has taken China as the first major country to pay a state visit, which fully reflects the great importance he attaches to China-Thailand relations and the deep friendship characterized as "China and Thailand are as close as one family".

Xi expressed condolences over the recent death of Queen Mother Sirikit and noted that the Thai royal family has a time-honored relationship with China and has made important contributions to promoting friendship between the two countries, which Beijing deeply appreciates.

Noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties and the "Golden Jubilee of China-Thailand Friendship", he said that over the past half century, China and Thailand have always worked together and supported each other amid an ever-changing international landscape, making them "good relatives, good friends and good partners".

Xi expressed his willingness to work with Thailand's king to further advance construction of the China-Thailand community with a shared future over the next 50 years and jointly write a new chapter in China-Thailand friendship.

Xi mentioned the recommendations for the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) adopted at the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in October, which, he said, focus on promoting high-quality development and expanding high-standard opening-up.

Japan warned of heavy price if it dares to interfere militarily in Taiwan affairs

By **ZHANG YUNBI**
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Beijing sent a slew of stern warnings on Thursday and Friday over Tokyo's refusal to retract Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's provocative comments regarding Taiwan, saying that Japan will pay a heavy price if it dares to interfere militarily in the Taiwan affairs.

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The strong responses from Chinese officials in charge of diplomacy, defense and the Taiwan affairs came after Takaichi on Nov 7 hinted the possibility of Japan's military intervention in the Taiwan affairs in what she called a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan. She once again used such language on Thursday.

Japan colonized Taiwan from 1895 to 1945, and Tokyo's recent provocations came shortly after China's V-day celebrations earlier this year.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wu Jianghao requested a meeting with Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Takehiro Funakoshi on Friday and made a protest, saying that Japan's refusal to conduct damage control is "a complete misjudgment of the situation and overestimation

of its strength".

According to a statement by the Foreign Ministry early on Friday, Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong summoned Japanese Ambassador to China Kenji Kanasugi on Thursday, asking Tokyo to immediately reflect and correct its mistakes and withdraw the wrongful remarks.

Otherwise, "all consequences must be borne by Japan", Sun noted.

He said that 80 years ago, the Chinese people defeated the Japanese invaders after 14 years of battles, and these days "anyone who dares to interfere in China's reunification cause in any form will surely be dealt a heavy blow by China".

"The Taiwan affairs are purely China's internal affairs", and "how to resolve the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese people to decide and brooks no interference by any external force", he said.

Senior Colonel Jiang Bin, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, warned at an online news briefing on Friday that Takaichi's remarks "are extremely irresponsible and dangerous" and sent very wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

"Should the Japanese side fail to draw lessons from history and dare to take a risk, or even use force to

improving people's livelihoods, he added.

The Thai royal couple arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a five-day state visit. According to the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visit aims to strengthen the close and enduring friendship between the two nations and promote deeper understanding between their peoples.

During the meeting, the Thai king extended congratulations to Xi on the remarkable achievements China has made in economic and social development.

He said that Thailand and China share a close and friendly relationship, with frequent interactions between their peoples and extensive, in-depth mutually beneficial cooperation. He described cooperation between the two countries as collaboration between brothers.

Thailand is ready to actively learn from China's development experience, expand cooperation with China in various fields, and enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges to make the countries' friendship even more deeply rooted in the hearts of their people, the king said.

China remains Thailand's largest trading partner, top investor and biggest source of tourists, while Thailand continues to be one of China's key trading partners within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In 2024, bilateral trade exceeded \$133 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6.1 percent, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In an interview with China Daily, Korn Dabbaransi, former Thai deputy prime minister and president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association, highlighted the signifi-

cance of the Thai king's visit, saying it truly confirms that the relationship between China and Thailand goes beyond just diplomacy on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their ties, but rather, sends a clear and loud message to the world that the two nations are akin to a family.

Chat Luangarpa, executive vice-president of Thai Kasikornbank, a major banking group in Thailand, said that as a country sitting at a very important location in Southeast Asia, Thailand enjoys geographic advantages of further connecting China with the Southeast Asian region. "There is a lot of potential for joint development between us in the future, in particular in clean energy, artificial intelligence and electric vehicles," he said.

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Return to Earth



The return capsule of the Shenzhou XXI spaceship, carrying the Shenzhou XX astronauts Wang Jie, Chen Dong and Chen Zhongrui, touches down at the Dongfeng landing site in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region on Friday. **CHENG LIN / FOR CHINA DAILY**
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Report unveils Gen Z's faith in growth led by China, US

By **ZHANG YUNBI**

Generation Z youths from around the world now perceive China and the United States as "the two most influential nations in international affairs" and in future global economic performance, and many of them believe the two countries will jointly lead future scientific and technological breakthroughs, according to a

latest survey.

Titled "The World Through the Eyes of Gen Z", the Global Youth Survey Research Report was jointly issued by China Daily's Generation Z Research Center and Global Social Media Academy, as well as Xi'an Jiaotong University's School of Journalism and New Media on Friday.

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Offices boost participation of public in shaping laws

Editor's note: This year marks the fifth anniversary of the introduction of Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law. China Daily will publish a series of stories exploring its implementation across the country.

By **CAO YIN**
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Upon learning that China's Science and Technology Popularization Law was set for revision last year, Liu Ersheng, a 71-year-old Shanghai native, visited the Hongqiao subdistrict in the city and submitted his suggestions to the nation's top legislature via a "direct line".

With decades of experience in promoting agricultural planting technologies, Liu recognized the critical need to engage young people in scientific and technological education, so he proposed increasing discounts for them at science museums and related destinations.

To his surprise, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, adopted his advice. Now, under the revised law, which took effect in December last year, youngsters can enjoy free or discounted entry to these venues.

The "direct line" that carried Liu's proposal to the highest legislative body is an outreach office established by the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission in Hongqiao. To date, the number of such offices has reached 54 nationwide and these have gathered over 66,000 legislative suggestions from the public, with more than 3,500 incorporated into laws.

Shi Hongli, an official from the commission, highlighted the crucial role that these outreach offices play in facilitating legislative participation, saying that they have employed various methods such as inspection tours, symposiums, video talks and questionnaires to engage people from all walks of life.

"Public involvement demonstrates that legislation is by the people and for the people," Shi said, adding that the offices are designed to effectively address public concerns and challenges.

This people-centered approach aligns with Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, which was introduced in November 2020 at a central conference in Beijing on work related to overall law-based governance.

The thought underscores the significance of meeting people's demand, protecting their rights and constantly enhancing their sense of fulfillment, happiness and security through advancing overall law-based governance.

It stresses that legislation should be advanced in a scientific manner, with a greater focus on key areas, such as national security, public health, technological innovation and environmental protection.

Strong participation

The legislative outreach offices have been pivotal in implementing this thought, as they bridge the gap between national legislation and the public.

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